

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1346  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.07.2019

**Subsidised Sanitary Napkins**

1346. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to distribute free or subsidised sanitary napkins to girls in schools so that they do not dropout because of lack of access to hygienic products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has carried out any survey to assess the number of school days missed by girls because of the lack of access to hygienic sanitary products or due to disease from the use of unhygienic sanitary products; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme to minimise school dropouts post puberty?

**A N S W E R**

**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

(a) & (b): To address the need of menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls residing primarily in rural areas, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme. Under this scheme, funds are provided to States/UTs through National Health Missions as per proposals received from them in their Programme Implementation Plans and for decentralized procurement of sanitary napkin packs for making provision to adolescent girls at subsidized rates.

This scheme encompasses the following:

- Increasing awareness among adolescent girls on Menstrual Hygiene;
- Improving access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins by adolescent girls specially in rural areas;
- Ensuring safe disposal of Sanitary Napkins in an environmentally friendly manner;

- Provision of funds to Accredited Social Health Activists(ASHAs) to hold monthly meetings in Anganwadi centres or similar platforms with adolescents to discuss issues related to menstrual hygiene;
- ASHAs across the country are trained and play a significant role in promotion of use and distribution of sanitary napkins.

Under integrated Scheme of Samagra Shiksha of Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, State-specific special projects are funded to enhance retention of girl at upper primary and secondary level, such as Adolescent Health Programme, Programmes on Menstrual Health and Hygiene, provision of sanitary pad vending machines and incinerators in schools.

(c): There is no National level survey data available on this.

(d): Under its Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme, the Ministry of Women & Child Development sanctions Rs. 5 lakh per district per annum to the select 405 districts to carry out various planned activities for motivation of the girls to continue their education through the various interventions of the Department of School Education & Literacy viz. re-enrolment of drop-out girls in secondary schools, protocols for girl-child friendly schools, institutes district level awards for felicitating girl achievers and special awards for meritorious girls etc. Through these interventions, the Scheme envisages to minimize dropouts of girl students and facilitate them in their higher studies.

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